

Chancellor's Community Forum
School Scorecard
April 29, 2009
Kelly Miller Middle School – 301 49th St NE
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Discussion Leader: Gretchen Guffy

The notes below reflect our effort to summarize the comments, questions and concerns expressed at each meeting. They are not recorded verbatim and should not be considered direct quotations.

Overview: The parents were very receptive to the idea of having a school report card. The report card should be parent-friendly and truly measure how the school is performing compared to the rest of the district. The parents discussed different indicators that should be reflected in the report card including parent engagement and student safety beyond school walls. Some of the parents wanted to know what would happen if most of the schools in their particular neighborhood receive very low grades. This will affect the morale of the school community and makes parents feel powerless if they are unable to send their children to better schools that are farther away.

Attendance:

2 Teachers
8 Parents
4 Students

Notes:

Concerns	Comments
NYC Score Card vs. Chicago Score Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I do not like the NYC Score Card. I prefer the presentation of data of Chicago. It is more clear and parent-friendly.- I like the NYC Score Card. Test environment category is soft and fuzzy. Comparing to peer schools is important. I like having the grade (A, B, C, etc.) since this is more understandable for parents.- Parent accountability, participation, and engagement measure should be part of the score card. (Chicago)
Negative effects of Scorecard	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What happens when all the schools in one neighborhood receives all D's?- Will parents have a choice of where to send their kids?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The scorecard may create a negative atmosphere around schools and offers little choice.
What should be on the score card?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Foreign language opportunities/programs - Suspension rates - Number of safety incidences both in school and out of school - Community support system - Average number of classroom teachers absences - Climate & school culture - There needs to be parent liaison on every school if schools are going to be measured by parent engagement. - The scorecard should have information on student progress. - The scorecard should include level of competitiveness and the how the school compares with other schools.
Who is the audience?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chicago's is more parent-friendly. - NYC's audience is more for administrators.
What is the best way to distribute the score cards to parents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribute individual school report cards as part of the back to school packet. - Publish a handbook and have it available at Safeway, Giant, etc. and mail it at home for each student. - Make it available online as well. - Have it available during the summer before school reopens so parents can make informed decisions. - How will the distribution process include families who speak other languages than English?
Other comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent surveys of exiting parents should not have the same weight as the parents who are still at school. - Why do we not have foreign language programs on the elementary and middle school level? - How would the scorecard reflect how the school compares on a national level?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- How do we increase academic rigor in the classroom?- What measures on the scorecard would show rigor in the curriculum?
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